

7 SOCIETY GIRLS OPEN LUNCH ROOM TO AID RED CROSS

To help win the war Miss Margaret McChord, daughter of Interstate Commerce Commissioner McChord and prominent in Washington social circles, with six other well known society women, is daily handing pie a la mode and hot coffee over the counter of her own lunch room in the basement of the Interstate Commerce Commission Building.

Little wonder that Miss McChord's basement lunch has made a hit during its three weeks of existence. Just look at the staff of "waitresses" aiding Miss McChord in her patriotic endeavor with the already famous luncheon place.

Mrs. Howard Hume, Mrs. Philip Metz, Mrs. Thomas Holcomb, Miss Virginia LaSalle, Miss Frances Traver and Miss Virginia Minor.

nd success reason No. 2 is this: Three salads, sandwiches, sometimes baked beans, pie, ice cream, milk and coffee—nothing over 15 cents—and it's all for the Red Cross, too.

Might Call Hard Work.

To prepare enough to eat for 500 persons and then to serve from noon until 2 o'clock every day in the week except Sunday is what you might call hard work. And this is exactly what these seven Washington women are doing every week day for the Red Cross.

It is never later than 9:30 o'clock when they are ready to go to work. Then comes the making of sandwiches, the boiling of eggs, the cutting of pies, and like mental tasks associated with lunch rooms—which they perform with a will and enjoy. Then comes noon and lunch for their costumed—

The "girls" get into their costumes—all white with a red cross on their caps—and to their places. One behind the pie section, another to serve fruit salad, another ice cream, and others at the sandwich counter.

As an accommodation for the employees of the Interstate Commerce Commission, the little war lunch has already won a name. Men and women employees from all parts of the huge building through the basement room as soon as the clock points to their lunch hour. Even the commissioners themselves, with weighty problems of rail and freight cars to be solved, often drop in for a dish of salad, a sandwich and a cup of hot coffee.

Contingent Arrives.

In ten minutes the first contingent from the War Department arrives. Also officers of allied governments in trim blue, gray, and green uniforms. The lunch then presents a picturesque scene. A regular liberty lunch room!

The seven charming women now serving as "war waitresses" told The Times reporter that they were going to continue their work with the lunch room for the benefit of the Red Cross until the end of the war.

"I find this work very interesting," said Miss McChord, who originated and worked out the idea of the basement luncheon.

"We get down here about 9:30 o'clock and work every day until after 3 in the afternoon. I will continue this activity until the end of the war. Everything we make here besides expenses is turned over to the Interstate Commerce Commission Red Cross," she said.

This basement room, too, is an interesting place. Before becoming a lunchroom it was used as a storehouse for statistics. Here it was that the Interstate Commerce Commission kept many of their important records securely locked. The big double safe door is still there—rather strangely—as the door of a lunchroom.

Leo McCawley Cashier. Just outside of the door sits Leo McCawley, sixteen years old, once Commissioner McChord's personal messenger, now buyer for the lunch and cashier. Leo sits outside of the door at a desk with a little black cash box, as the cashier.

Pretty Girl Takes "Tommyes" Sight-Seeing



Photo by International.

Here are British troops from the Antipodes sight-seeing in Paris under the guidance of a woman member of the British army and Navy League Club in Paris. It is the duty of these workers to make the soldier who is back from the trenches forget the atmosphere of war as much as possible. Gladly the returned "Tommyes" place themselves in the hands of their motherly guides, whom they affectionately call "Mother." These Anzacs (brief for Australian and New Zealand army corps) were snapped in front of the Louvre, in Paris. These colonials have done some of the fiercest fighting in the war.

New York As A Caterer

By MRS. GRANNY RYLAND.

(Continued from First Page.)

our best families in semi-rural communities.

The opportunities for enjoying this particular pleasure, it would seem, have been excessive. Malnutrition, both pre-natal and in the earlier stages of childhood, has played so overwhelming a part in defective intelligence and tuberculosis, that there is no excuse for going on in the old way any longer, building the institutions and driving through the grounds with smug approval at our efficiency in handling the problem.

Secretary McAdoo For Prevention. Now it seems that thanks to Secretary McAdoo, the first steps have been taken to do away with the policy of endurance, rather than prevention.

The number of draft rejections, due to physical defects traceable to malnutrition in childhood, has caused the United States Public Health Service to take up the matter through the national campaign of Federal, State, county, and municipal authorities, for safeguarding the health of school children, has been undertaken, with gratifying prospects.

The practical application of this

campaign is the development of plans for providing the children at noon-day with warm, properly balanced meals.

Investigations had shown previously that a large proportion of parents, even among people in comfortable circumstances, were driven money with which to buy lunches, or parts of lunches. Left to his own devices, it is hardly necessary to say, the infant bon vivant too often dined well but not wisely on an ice-cream cone or a pickle.

Or he bought himself a soft drink, as a mild bracer, when he wasn't feeling up to the mark. Again he saved "it" and did not eat at all, if he had any frenzied financial project in view. As a self-caterer the future citizen did violence to himself and his inner man.

Poor Soil for the Three R's. Needless to say that arithmetic, geography, English, and kindred studies did not flower to the degree that might have been expected, on mental soil so irregularly fertilized.

The ice cream cone, the pickle, the "all-day sucker," induced a post-prandial wandering of wits and an inability to concentrate

along those bleak watches of the afternoon, when the clock appears to have gone on strike and time to have become petrified.

There is another class, far removed from the infant capitalist with ready money and the ability to buy something deliciously bad for himself. This was the child who had no lunch at all—the pitiful little martyr to social conditions who dozed sometimes over his books because his stomach was empty.

The result of these investigations is now pending in a proposed ordinance for the establishment, under the Board of Education, of a bureau of school feeding. It is proposed that the city shall take over the plant and equipment operated at present by the private organization which has been furnishing school luncheons in a number of the public schools. The central kitchen and a part of the equipment are now owned by the city, which at various times has made appropriations toward this work.

Appalling Figures in New York.

The absolute necessity for some such arrangement was made evident by the appalling figures brought out by the bureau of child hygiene in the health department of New York. A survey of all the children in Manhattan schools disclosed the fact that only 17 per cent were normally nourished. In class 2, embracing the "border-line" cases, or those not well nourished but not actually suffering for nutriment, comprised 61 per cent of the whole. These actually undernourished, and those undernourished as to require immediate medical attention were near 22 per cent of the total.

In other boroughs, previous data showed that malnutrition was even higher. Following such a melancholy compilation of facts, there is bound to come a tremendous rise in the number of cases of tuberculosis and defective intelligence. And if the children have not the food, certainly the mothers have not, as the mothers never let the children go hungry without going hungry themselves.

War Raises the Percentage.

At the best of times there seems to be a normal percentage—about 6—of undernourishment, due to heredity, disease, and the like. The appalling rise to 22 per cent has occurred since the war began. The high cost of living is hitting New York hard in certain quarters.

It is not a moment too soon for these lunches, which are not to be charity affairs, but operated by the city and sold at cost. If the plan could even be extended and the children be allowed to take home a supper supplied at cost price, the arrangement would be an excellent one.

But at present we are thankful to say grace devoutly for that vicarious meal to be given to the school children of New York, beyond the plots and machinations of the food profiteer.

Some time ago England recognized the danger of attempting to get the same amount of school work out of children living on reduced rations as was possible when they were well fed. In consequence, schools opened later, and parents were advised to allow their children to sleep an hour longer in the mornings.

The health of future generations is formed as the child grows. His value to his country depends on the brain and body he is able to offer for service. By all means let's have more good, well-

than expensive building and grounds for physical and mental defects after we grow them.

2,000 VOLTS KILL LINE MAN.

HAGERSTOWN, Md., March 10.—Two thousand volts passed through the body of Nathaniel M. Lightner, who was instantly killed, when he threw a chain across a wire while repairing an electric-light line.

HOOVER, ROBBED BY KAISER, PLANS TO GET REVENGE

Herbert Hoover has been robbed by the Kaiser!

The German monarch captured several hundred pounds of beef from the Federal food administrator, by force of arms. The Kaiser paid for the plunder later, when Hoover presented his bill at Berlin.

These startling facts were considered today when the graduates of Leland Stanford University discussed the secrets revealed by Mrs. Hoover at the meeting of the graduates in the College Women's Club at 1322 I street northwest last night.

Will Make Kaiser Pay.

Mr. Hoover hopes to make the Germans pay higher prices for the theft of the choice steaks in China years ago. It took 40,000 soldiers to support Wilhelm the Second in the seizure of the cattle. The chief of the food forces was introducing "Hooverism" to the Oriental world when the Germans interfered with his program. It is with compounded interest in experience that Hoover is settling up old grudges against Willie Hohenzollern with his "food will win the war program."

It was during the Boxer rebellion in China when Hoover incurred the enmity of the Germans by the distribution of food supplies. A lonely cow and offspring were owned by the Hoovers. The milk from the cow was given out to the starving Orientals in the walled city. By a convincing argument of the sword, the Germans captured the cattle. The Kaiser, after attempting a compromise, according to his custom, finally reached a satisfactory settlement. Mr. Hoover made a slight profit on the deal, too.

Mrs. Hoover Tells Story.

Mrs. Hoover told of their first view of German atrocities during the Boxer uprising. She described the slaughter of defenseless coolies by Hun machine gunners.

The alumni of Stanford are proud of the food administrator's wife. She has the distinction of being the only woman graduate of the geology department. Mr. Hoover was a member of the pioneer class of Stanford. He graduated from the California university in 1898. It was during his college course that the administrator met the woman who is now his loyal helpmate. Their romance had its inception on the campus of Stanford University.

Ben Allen and Dr. Vernon Kellogg, Hoover's aides in Belgium, and now with the food administration, were speakers. Mr. Hoover was unable to attend the session because of a New York engagement.

GOVERNMENT MAY LEND MONEY TO ERECT D. C. HOMES

By WILL PRICE.

The increasing menace of shortage of housing conditions in Washington is today causing the various agencies of the Government to try to get together upon some plan that may be laid before Congress for prompt action.

Time is passing without action anywhere, and Government officials and others feel most seriously the need of the whole subject being presented to Congress at the earliest possible moment, that the dangers may not be longer delayed.

Major Potter, of the housing and health division of the War Department, who is a close personal friend of Secretary Baker, has sent letters to builders, contractors, and owners of real estate in Washington seeking to ascertain whether house construction in this city cannot be greatly increased if loans for such purposes can be had from the Government and aid is also given in lifting embargoes on building material.

Uncertain About Loans.

Major Potter has been informed that Washington bankers do not feel at liberty to make loans for construction on liberal terms in view of the uncertainties of the future, but many people have indicated to him that if they could obtain money and material they would at once begin construction of houses or apartments.

Major Potter's inquiries want to find from each man written to the probable nature of the building to be undertaken if the Government were to provide loans and arrange for material to reach here; the number of people the buildings would accommodate; the rent to be charged, and all data that will enable him to comprehend what the prospects are for private building where aided by the Government.

There are optimistic Washington people who have told Major Potter they believe the population of this city will continue to increase and that this population will stay here permanently; that building material and wages may not go much lower for many years to come, if at all; and that if supplied with loans they would go ahead with construction that will furnish housing for clerks and families of clerks.

Has Taken No Action.

Other Government officials do not believe that this method promises the quick results that will be necessary and think that the only thing to do is for the President or some Cabinet officer to lay before Congress the urgent necessity of immediate appro-

priations for construction of barracks or dormitories.

The understanding some weeks ago was that all housing matters were to come under Secretary Wilson, of the Department of Labor, but so far he has taken no action toward providing for the thousands of clerks coming here in the next few months.

ENEMY RAIDS FAIL.

PARIS, March 10.—Failure of attempted enemy raids against Bois pretre and sector Reillon and Leprie court has been officially announced.

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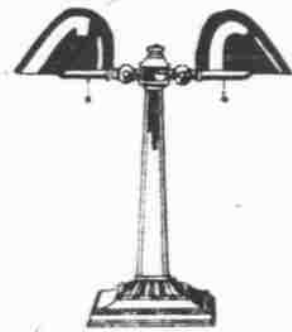
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